



Dear Richie, Richard Dee here.

Hello and welcome to the first edition of my new look newsletter.

Firstly, if you've downloaded an ARC copy of *Murder Most Foul*, I hope you enjoy it.

When you've finished, please don't forget to let me know what you thought of it.

You can do that by replying to this email.

Anything you have to say, good or bad, will be appreciated.

If you missed the download link, and would like a copy, click the button below.

Thank you.

[Download an ARC of Murder Most Foul](#)



A few people have asked me to change the format of my newsletters and give out a bit more information about me and my writing process, so here goes.

If you've heard all this before, my apologies.

I never intended to write anything, let alone over twenty novels and more than a hundred short stories. At school, I was always told that I couldn't write to save my life. I wish some of my teachers could see what's happened, I'd love to get their reaction.

Anyhow, after school (where I failed English, btw), I went to sea in the Merchant Navy and roamed the world for a while. In the 1970s and 80s, there was a lot less globalisation and everywhere we went was different to everywhere else. I think I must have been storing the experiences up, waiting for the day when I could use them, with names changed, in the stories I was going to write.

As the years passed, I got married and, with three daughters, started to hate the four- or five-month trips away from my family. So, I looked for work closer to home, where I could see them grow.

I stayed with shipping, it was all I knew, and my qualifications reflected that. After various jobs, I ended up as a ships pilot on the Thames, taking all sorts of ships up and down the river and through the estuary, including passing under Tower Bridge and navigating various muddy creeks.

Once again, I met some fascinating people and amassed a wealth of anecdotes.

Finally, we come to writing, which only really started when I retired. One day, my shoulder locked while I was climbing a pilot ladder. Which was tricky for a moment. Doctors discovered a bone spur in my shoulder, requiring surgery. After six months off work, it wasn't a difficult decision to give it all up.

While I was on sick leave, I wrote a novel, *Ribbonworld*, as something to do. It was my second attempt at a full-length story. The first, *Freefall*, was me trying to transfer my cargo ship days into

space, with a bit of extra adventure thrown in. (The initial version of *Freefall* wasn't very good; I've since rewritten it, and now it's much better.)

After I'd finished *Ribbonworld*, I asked a friend of my wife, who was a traditionally published author, what they thought. They loved it. With their guidance, I submitted it to a few agents, without success. Self-publishing was the logical next step.

And the rest, as they say...

That's a brief history of the last fifty years of my life. Much more can be found on my website.



Meanwhile,

When you joined my newsletter, you received a free Sci-fi/Crime story. While action and adventure Sci-fi and Steampunk (like my free stories) are my favourite genres to write in, I've also written some more light-hearted amateur detective novels in the style of Miss Marple or Agatha Raisin.

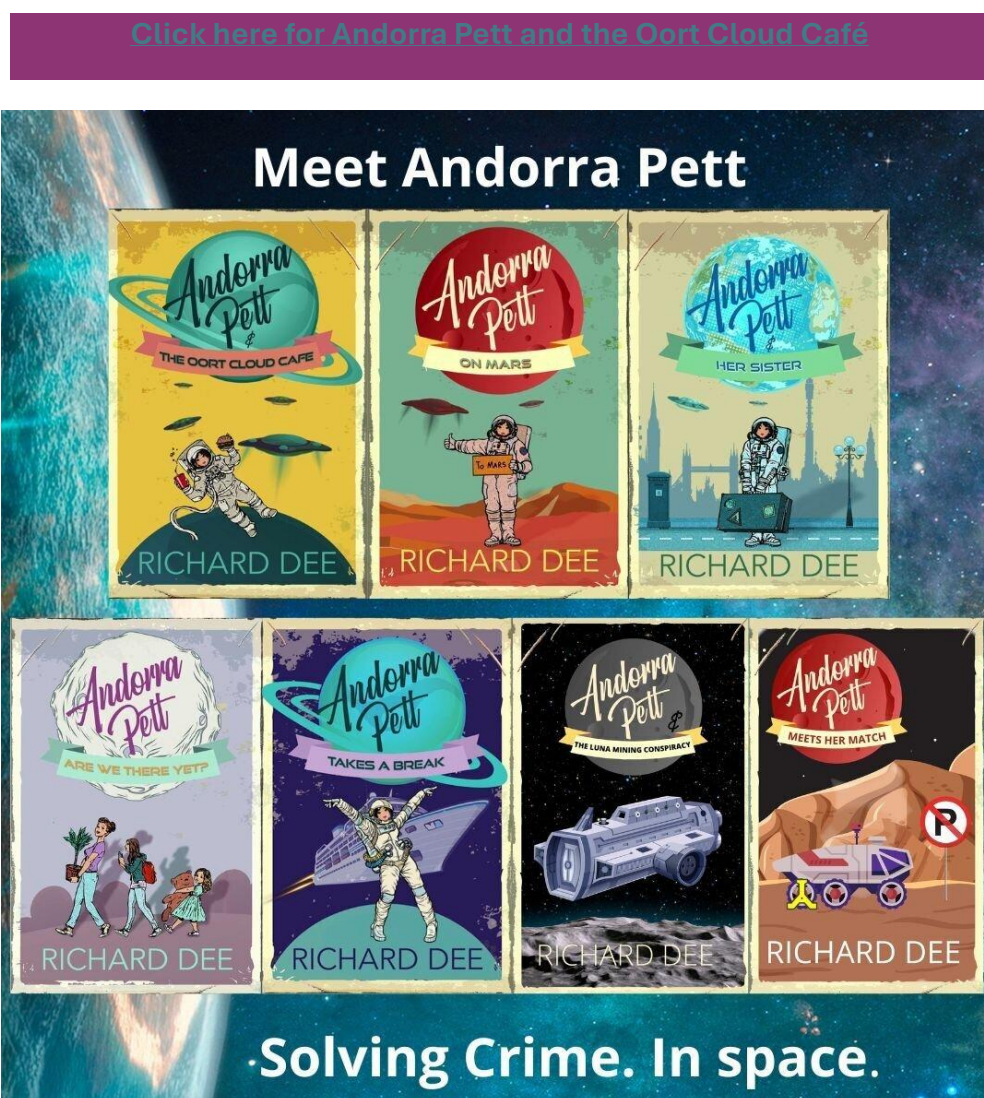
Inspired by the lives and antics of my wife and three daughters, Andorra Pett is a dress designer who finds herself on a space station. It's a long story, involving a cheating boyfriend and a soon-to-be-ex best friend. She's hardly had time to get unpacked when she gets involved in a crime and decides to investigate.

The result is a comedy/cozy crime/sci-fi mashup, which has led to several sequels. In addition to the events on the space station, Andorra has also had two adventures on Mars, one each on Earth and the Moon and one on an interplanetary cruise liner.

I've also written a short tale based on an event in her childhood. She's all set to head for the asteroid belt in her next outing, when I get around to writing it.

Because of the family connection, she's probably my favourite character. The fact that there have been so many amazing women in my life has meant that I write a lot of female lead characters, from space-adventuring bounty hunters to talking female computers and housewives with a double life as superheroes. and that's before you get to the female sidekicks accompanying my male leads.

You can start the Andorra Pett series at the *Oort Cloud Café* for just £1.99 (\$2.99).



In my old newsletters, I used to have a section about what I had been reading, as well as selected highlights from my blog.

Since the last letter, I have read *Black Void*, by Paul Yantus, and I'm currently reading *Jerryn's Dagger*, which is Book one of the *Empire and Ashes* series by D.L. Young.

Reviews will follow on my blog and I'll make sure to tell you when they're live.

On my blog, I've been talking about worldbuilding in this post,

[Click here for a journey across the Galaxy](#)

In the old format, this was followed by part two, telling you about what I got up to when I wasn't writing.

I will carry that on next time, but as my wife and I have been busy with hospital appointments and various boring activities, there's nothing much to tell you in this letter.

I'll try and do something interesting that I can tell you about next month.

I've also removed a few things from these letters, like links to my old newsletters and blogs, you can now find these on my website by clicking the button below.

[Click here for The Archives](#)

And finally.

Did you know, in the digital world, the number of reviews a book has affects how the algorithm serves it up to show to more readers? This is one reason why you may see authors asking all over the place for reviews. Next to buying a book, reviews are the most effective way to support an author.

But they can be tricky to write sometimes, right? So here's a quick tip and framework to make it easier:

Keep it simple and answer up to three questions:

- 1) Did you enjoy it?
- 2) Would you recommend it to someone else?
- 3) Did you end up with a favourite character or scene?

Then apply a star-rating on your overall enjoyment of the book.

If you haven't already, today is a great day to leave a review on one of my books, it would certainly be appreciated.

Finally, thanks for sticking with these letters. It's hard to believe that I sent the first one ten years ago. I'm really grateful to all of you who've supported me this far, and I hope to continue to keep you entertained in the future.

If you want to ask me anything about my life or my writing, just hit reply. I'm always happy to chat.

See you next month,

Happy reading.

Richard Dee.

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